

Kentucky Agricultural Development Board

Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2001

The Kentucky Agricultural Development Board met on Friday, March 16, at 10:00 a.m., at the Kentucky History Center, in Frankfort. Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, Vice Chairman, called the meeting to order, and the secretary called the roll.

Members Present:

Commissioner Billy Ray Smith, Vice Chairman; John-Mark Hack, Executive Director; Daniel Case; Seth Conner; Susan Harkins; Wayne Hunt; Sam Lawson; Sam Moore; Willa Poynter; Eddie Sellers; Mike Slaughter; Dean Scott Smith; and Smith Mitchell for Secretary Gene Strong.

Members Absent:

Governor Paul Patton and Larry Clay.

Others Present:

John M. Barrick, Allorganic; Jeffery K. Davis; Mark Farrow, and Eddie Duvall, Kentucky Department of Agriculture; Roger Nesbitt, Kentucky Farm Bureau; Sharon Burton, Farmer's Pride; Biff Baker, Sharon Cantrell, and Steve Mason, Legislative Research Commission; John Stevenson, Kentucky Cattlemen's Association; Larry Jeffries, KARDA; Sara Dryden, Burley Coop; Pete Cashel, Sheri Arms, and J.W.'Buddy' Switzer, Community Farm Alliance; Jeff Hall, USDA/FSA; Charles Fields, Central Kentucky Growers Coop; Jimmy Henning and Donna Amaral-Phillips, University of Kentucky; Karen Armstrong-Cummings, Commodity Growers Cooperative; Michael R. Young; and Gordon Duke, Ben Gramig, Jeff Harper, Hampton Henton, Joel Neaveill, Lisa Thomas, and Tim Woods, Governor's Office of Agricultural Policy.

Minutes of February 16 Meeting:

The minutes of the February 16th meeting were approved as written.

Welcoming Remarks:

Commissioner Smith welcomed Board members and guests to the meeting. He advised that Governor Patton was out of the state and unable to attend the meeting.

Executive Director's Report:

John-Mark Hack, Executive Director, conveyed the Governor's regrets for his absence.

Next Mr. Hack reviewed the day's agenda.

Director Hack discussed ways to resolve communication problems between the ADB and the County Agricultural Development Councils. He stated that quarterly training for Ag. Extension agents will be scheduled and ADB staff will begin communicating directly with all members of the county councils and discontinue the practice of exclusive communication with the extension agents. He also discussed the possibility of holding regional county council informational sessions in conjunction with the ADB meetings. If implemented, this suggestion would require the ADB to move its meetings around the state. Staff and ADB members would conduct the county council informational sessions the evening before the ADB meeting.

John-Mark Hack advised members that the Request for Proposals for Legal Counsel would close today. He and Gordon Duke will begin interviewing applicants next week.

Finally, Mr. Hack stated that Dr. Goldberg had identified and completed a list of individuals as initial invitees in the development of the Long-Term Plan. Governor Patton mailed letters of invitation to the individuals.

USDA:

Jeff Hall, the newly appointed Executive Director of the USDA/Kentucky Farm Service Agency and Butch Dunsmore discussed USDA programs currently available that provide financial assistance to Kentucky farmers.

State Board of Ethics Code:

There was discussion of the document. Wayne Hunt moved with a second from Mike Slaughter that the document be sent to Jill LeMaster, Director, Executive Branch Ethics Commission for review and comments. The motion passed by voice vote.

Kentucky Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship:

Hampton 'Hoppy' Henton briefed the members on his plan of action to get The Center up and running. He stated that interviews to fill the positions established by the ADB would be held the last week of March.

Hoppy further advised that he expected to attend meetings with various individuals to discuss the expectations of The Center. He commented that based on past experiences with FSA and other entitlement programs, farmers are expecting the ADB money to flow directly to them simply because they apply. Mr. Henton said that one key element to the success of the program is to educate the farmers and farm communities that the Agricultural Development Fund is not an entitlement program and will discuss ways with other farm agencies that they can assist us in this education process.

Mr. Henton discussed The Center's important role in securing federal funds.

UK:

Dean Scott Smith introduced Larry Jones, Agricultural Economist. Mr. Jones will assume the duties previously assigned to Jeff Hall.

Agricultural Development Fund: Expected Income vs. Requests for Funds:

Mr. Hack reviewed the document with board members.

Referral of Project Proposals:

John-Mark Hack recommended that the board refer all projects to the Project Review Committee for review and recommendation.

Mike Slaughter moved with a second from Wayne Hunt to refer all new projects to the committee. The motion passed by voice vote.

Project Review Committee Report:

Sam Lawson presented the committee report. He advised that the committee met on March 12 and recommended the following projects be approved for funding:

Project #4 Western Kentucky Growers Cooperative: Approved for \$605,000 from state funds. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Danny Case that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yeas votes.

Project #6 Green River Produce Marketing Cooperative: Approved for \$882,000 from state funds: Sam Lawson moved with a second from Sam Moore that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 11 yeas votes. Mike Slaughter abstained to avoid a potential conflict of interest.

Project #7 Central Kentucky Grower's Association, Inc.: Approved for \$456,000 from state funds. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Danny Case that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yeas votes.

Project #8 Clark County Livestock & Forage Council: Approved for \$101,000 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Sam Moore that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #16 Madison County Beef Cattle Association: Approved for \$101,500 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Danny Case that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #14 Todd County Cattlemen's Association: Approved for \$57,100 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Willa Poynter that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #19 Wayne County Tomato Growers Association: Approved for \$9,000 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Dean Smith that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #36 Cumberland farm Products Association, Inc.: Approved for \$2,500,000 from state funds. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Seth Conner that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #45 Monroe County High School Agriculture Department: Approved for \$35,000 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Smith Mitchell that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #72 Barren County High School Agriculture Department: Approved for \$75,000 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Mike Slaughter that the board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Project #81 Shelby County 4-H: Approved for \$25,000 from the county fund. Sam Lawson moved with a second from Susan Harkins that the board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Mr. Lawson stated that the Project Review Committee also recommended actions as follows:

Applications to be returned to the applicant: Project #25 Travis Coomer; and #70 Fayette County Conservation District.

Applications to be returned to the County: Project #12 Madison County Conservation District; #13 Grain Day, Inc.; #15 Madison County Conservation District; #28 Garrard County Farmers Market; #30 David Watts; #32 Lincoln County Cattlemen's Association; #31 Tonya Watts; #47 Dudley Glass, Jr.; #48 Alan Glass; #49 Dennis Pennington; #50 Leer Farm Partnership; #51 Mulholland Farm; #52 Amerson Farm Orchard; #53 E R Stone Farm LLC; #54 Ronnie Jacobs; #55 Evans Farm; #56 Mark Wells; #57 Lillian Kinsey; #58 Adam & Tom Probst; #59 Charles Beavers; #60 Roy Thomas Kettering; #61 David McDonald; #62 James and Mary Lyons; #63 Gayle Tackett; #64 Dale Glass; #65 Darrell Lyons; #66 Jim Hamilton; #67 David Hawkins; #68 Steve Perkins; #41 Wilson Hay Service; #38 Monroe County Limousin Producers Association; #69 Jackson Purchase RC & D Foundation, Inc.; #46 LaRue County Beef Cattle Association; #74 Lovell Gardens; #77 Muhlenberg County Cattlemen's Association; #90 Warren County Conservation District; and #91 Clinton-Cumberland Beef Cattle Association.

Applications Recommended for Further review and/or Study: #1 Hopkinsville Grain Elevator Company, Inc.; #3 Kentucky Horticulture Council; #17 Madison County Beef Cattle Association; #20 Wayne County Cabbage Growers; #22 Evans Orchards; #23 Central Kentucky Agriculture Development Association; #24 CDP Enterprises; #26 The Elements Enterprises; #33 James Speray; #35 Northern Kentucky Area Agriculture Advancement Council (Eden Shale Farm); #44 Monroe County Conservation District; #43 Monroe County Conservation District; #71 Jackson's Orchard & Nursery, Inc.; #75 Justin Dale Lovell; #82 Kentucky Center for Cooperative Development; #86 Mid South Pork, Inc.; #88 Clinton County Meat Goat Association; and #93 Kentucky Wood Products Competitiveness Corporation.

Applications Referred to the Aquaculture Cost-Share Program: #83 R & J Skipworth Farms; #84 Franklin Farms; and #87 Purchase area Aquaculture Cooperative.

Applications Referred to the Kentucky Center for Agricultural Development and Entrepreneurship: #5 Southeast Kentucky Corn Growers Association; #9 BEPA Inc, DBA Great Farms; #37 Fiddler's Friend Feed Mill; #34 David Gabbard; #40 Monroe County Worm Growers; and #85 Appalachian Fresh Food Processors Inc.

Applications sent a Bull Genetics Improvement Letter: #94 Regional Cattlemen's Association; and #21 Tri-County Beef Marketing Association.

Sam Lawson moved with a second from Willa Poynter that the Board adopt the recommendations. The motion passed with 12 yea votes.

Mr. Lawson advised that the Project Review Committee recommended that the following projects be awarded no funding: #29 Daniel and Benjamin Padgett; #42

Monroe County Women in Agriculture; #39 Monroe County Vegetable Growers Cooperative; #37 Dairy Replacement Heifer Grower Group; #76 Bremen Elementary School; #78 Bremen Community Volunteer Fire Department; #79 Muhlenberg County Homemakers; #80 Muhlenberg County Quilters Guild; #92 Clinton County Extension District Board; and #16 Madison County Conservation District.

Sam Lawson moved with a second from Wayne Hunt that the Board adopt the committee's recommendation. The motion passed with 11 yeas and Dean Smith abstained.

Forage Resource Improvement and Utilization Program

John-Mark Hack and Tim Woods discussed the Forage Resource Improvement and Utilization Program document.

Dean Smith moved with a second from Danny Case to receive the document.

There was discussion. Several of the members felt that in order for the program to be a success it must include fertilizer and equipment. Susan Harkins noted that organic farming was not addressed in this document.

The following amendments were made to the document:

Page 3; Eligible Investments add: fertilizer and lime and organic/inorganic nutrients; and equipment purchase, administered by a Non-Profit organization made available to any member of the county.

Page 4; Prerequisites; a., should be changed to read: 'A soil test, taken within the last year, must be conducted through UK or other certified laboratory, with fertilizer and lime applications based on UK or other certified laboratory recommendations.

Page 7; Prerequisites; c., the document should be changed to reflect that the maximum investment of \$5,000 per farm shall include the cost of filter fabric pads.

Sam Moore moved with a second by Wayne Hunt to adopt the document as amended. The motion passed by voice vote.

The next meeting of the Agricultural Development will be held on Friday, April 20th, in the South Wing Board Room of the Kentucky Fair and Exposition Center in Louisville.

The meeting adjourned at 4:20.

